

**Milk Depot (Lindsay Milk Creamery)  
Clifton Townsite  
Park Avenue  
Clifton  
Greenlee County  
Arizona**

**HABS No. AZ-192**

HABS  
ARIZ  
6-CLIFT,  
22-

**PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

**Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Western Region  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94107**

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### MILK DEPOT (Lindsay Milk Creamery)

HABS  
ARIZ  
6-CLIFT,  
22-

HABS No. AZ-192

#### Location:

Clifton Townsite, Park Avenue, Clifton, Greenlee County, Arizona

#### Significance:

Associated with commerce in Clifton and the development of Clifton.

#### Description:

This relatively small commercial style building is rectangular in plan and has a flat roof with parapets. It is constructed of wood frame with a stuccoed exterior. The southwest front has an asymmetrical composition, with a pair of window featured at the center of the facade and the main entry to one side. The parapet at the southwest front has raised pilasters at the corners and a raised section at the center, all capped with projecting corbels. Both the doorway and the window openings on the southwest front and southeast side have decorative lintels imitating flat-arch stonework. A rectangular wooden sign at the southwest front has been painted over. The rear of the site is over grown with landscaping. The windows throughout the building are wood, double-hung, in poor condition; most have been boarded up. A small addition has been constructed at the rear of the building.

#### History:

This small one story frame building was constructed ca. 1925 as a refrigerated storage location for milk in Clifton. Milk and other dairy products would arrive by wagon or truck and were stored in refrigeration units until the product could be delivered to the doors of Clifton residents. It was constructed for the Clifton Dairy Company, which consisted of Milton Lines, Herbert Jessup, and Moray England. After 1940, the building was leased by William L. Lindsey who used it for a similar purpose.

William A. Lines operated dairies in Clifton and Morenci as early as 1909, providing dairy products to the families of the two mining towns using horse-drawn wagons. By 1918 Lines had incorporated his company and continued to serve the bustling mining community. Lines continued to operate in Clifton until the depression hit the local economy in 1921. In 1925 W. A. Lines' son Milton, along with Herbert Jessup and Moray England, formed the Clifton Dairy. Renewed mining activity and increased population in Clifton meant many new customers. The men constructed the Milk Depot at this time as a temporary storage facility for dairy products until they could be delivered.<sup>1</sup>

In 1929 the three men quit the business and sold the building and equipment to Cliff Lennox. Lennox stuck with the business for six years through the depression, but by 1936 Milton Lines returned to the dairy business. He lasted three more years. By 1940 the situation was ripe for a dedicated and enterprising person to enter the dairy business in Clifton. The advent of the Second World War increased copper prices and Phelps Dodge had begun exploiting its massive ore body

at Morenci in 1937. William L. Lindsey, a Safford dairyman, took over the operation of the Milk Depot.<sup>2</sup>

William L. Lindsey and his wife Addie arrived in Arizona from Oklahoma in 1925. The couple settled in Safford where they started a dairy. William Lindsey was a pioneer in bringing the innovation of pasteurization of milk to Arizona. This process destroys bacteria in the milk that might be harmful to humans without changing the flavor or nutrition of the milk. Clifton residents had lobbied for pasteurized milk as early as 1926 without success. When Phelps Dodge renewed operations in Clifton before the war, company officials wanted a safe supply of milk for their employees and their families. The company also wanted home delivery of milk, a luxury that had been missing since the decline in the Clifton dairy business. Company officials contacted the William Lindsey and persuaded him to expand his business to Clifton. The Lindsey family continued to supply milk to Clifton until the mid-fifties when paper cartons replaced glass containers of milk. Since the paper cartons were much lighter, demand for home delivery of milk declined as people began to purchase their own fresh milk at the market. The decline and abandonment of home delivery rendered a building such as the Milk Depot obsolete.<sup>3</sup>

**Sources (endnotes):**

1. Copper Era October 4, 1918 (I, 7: 5-6); June 27, 1925 (I, 5: 4); Arizona business directories for 1909, 1920, and 1922.
2. Copper Era May 25, 1929 (I, 1: 4); Arizona business directories 1929, 1933, 1936, 1939; interview with Mrs. William L. Lindsey, June 2, 1994.
3. Copper Era July 17, 1926 (I, 1: 2); interview with Mrs. William L. Lindsey, June 2, 1993.

**Historian:** Robert G. Graham AIA, Ryden Architects, Historical Architect/Project Coordinator  
Douglas Kupel, Consulting Historian

Ryden Architects  
645 North 4th Avenue, Suite A  
Phoenix, AZ 85003

September, 1994